



PATENT  
0032-0254P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al. ~ Conf.: 7526  
Appl. No.: 09/530,013 Group: 1623  
Filed: April 24, 2000 Examiner: R. Gitomer  
For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF  
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES COMPRISING CONTAINERS MADE OF  
OR COATED WITH MATERIALS INHIBITING THE ACTIVATION  
OF SUBSTANCES DEGRADING THEM (as amended)

*Handwritten:* HE  
9-12-02

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

September 4, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action dated May 9, 2002, the due date for Reply having been extended one (1) month to September 9, 2002 by petition herein, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

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*L* The claims have been amended as follows.

*el* 5. (Twice Amended) A method for inhibiting the degradation of mammalian natriuretic peptides in a specimen, comprising: